

Serial No. 09/582,253

Art Unit 3632

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In either embodiment of French Patent No. 1,559,036 to Dom Holdings Limited, the respective parts 1, 2, are not able to move in either axial direction relative to each another, once the respective parts have been attached to each other. Rather, once the respective parts 1, 2, of either embodiment have been assembled, neither part can move in an axial direction relative to the other part. The applicant submits, therefore, that claim 13, as three times amended, and its dependent claims should be now allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 24, 2002



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE**

You are requested further to amend the second full paragraph on page 4 of the applicant's specification, as follows:

The other part 14 of the clip has a base 26 and sides 28 that turn inwards at their ends 30 to a small extent. The part 14 has its internal corners rounded to correspond to the shape of conventional cross section down pipes. Of course, the part 14 of the clip may be of any desired shape, such as to fit circular section pipes. On their internal surfaces, each of the base 26 and sides 28 [each] has a pair of spaced ribs 32. Each of the [The] ends 30 of the sides 28 [each] also has on its internal surface at the end thereof a rib 34. The ribs 32 and 34 simply facilitate the fitting of a clip to a down pipe by reducing areas of contact and hence reducing friction between the clip and the down pipe.

You are requested further to amend claim 13, upon which claims 16, 17, 18, and 19 continue to depend, as follows:

13. (Three Times Amended) A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface, the connecting device comprising a first part fixable to the surface and a second part slidably attachable to the first part so as to be slidable along the pipe, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, the first and second parts having co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, the first and second parts having co-operative formations limiting the movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a [the] given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, but permitting the movement of the second part relative to the first part in an opposite direction, along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

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